

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This chapter discuss the description of the background which underlies the study on loss of privacy in *The Circle*.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The novel is a work of prose fiction written in narrative. In general, the prose is packed by the author in the form of a story. The word novel derived from Italian novella which means a story or piece of news. In this research paper, the researcher interested with the novel by Dave Eggers that is *The Circle* (2013). The researcher is interested in the topic that is about someone's privacy that can be known by anyone whenever and wherever. We know that privacy is something important. Privacy is the ability of an individual or group to seclude themselves and thereby express themselves selectively. When something is private to a person, it usually means that something is inherently special or special to them. In this era, everyone can easily know someone's activity by using social media.

Everyone can utilize social media to the activities of any such communication to entertainment and even to education. For example, a student university can search a lot of references to the lectures using social media.

As author Dave Eggers in the novel, *The Circle* revealed that a privacy can be easily known to everyone in an easy way. In *The Circle*, he serves up a work of dystopian fiction that takes aim at our social media-saturated lives. In the world of *The Circle*, "transparency" is fast becoming the ultimate proof of your goodness and value as a human being. Privacy is basically seen as stealing from your fellows, and secrecy of any kind is the very same thing as a lie.

Mae Holland has landed a job at *The Circle*, the most influential company in the world. With help from her college friend Annie. *The Circle*, created by three "Wise Men," combines all of one's online interactions (social media and

other business and personal communication, medical information, everything) into a single online identity called a *TruYou* and has been growing to contain virtually all the other information that exists across the world.

The company uses technological innovation to create what it claims is a more efficient and accountable society, especially by increasing transparency in government, business, and even personal lives. Cameras are everywhere, biological functions are monitored wirelessly, and *The Circle* adds more and more to its network. Mae begins work in Customer Experience and initially is concerned about her privacy, but she quickly rises in the ranks, gaining access to more screens of information (some of which she wears) and getting sucked into the arguments for full transparency, while her parents and ex-boyfriend Mercer grow increasingly horrified by the new rejection of private spaces and off the grid anonymity.

After Mae is caught illegally kayaking at night, she goes through a session of public shaming in front of the whole company and thus accepts a role as the primary “transparent” face of *The Circle*. She becomes world-famous, rejects Kalden’s concerns, loses her identity, and essentially becomes a cyborg. Meanwhile, government officials and then more and more people are pressured to give up their privacy to go transparent so that the rest of the world can keep tabs on their morals.

When Mae is given an opportunity to sit in on a meeting between *The Circle's* top executives and innovators, she makes a suggestion that propels the company in a radical new direction. As Eamon Bailey thinks out loud about the things that *The Circle* could do to increase voter participation in America, Mae suggests that Circle membership should be mandatory for all American citizens who are old enough to vote. Not only that, but Mae suggests that *The Circle* should take over all of the organizational and record-keeping matters related to voting, licensing, and registration in America—in short, all of the bureaucratic matters that are currently managed by state and federal governments.

Mae is sure that she is helping to create a utopia and to bring about a more wonderful, pure, and transparent form of participatory democracy. To her

annoyance, bothersome men like Kalden and Mercer are not so sure. Both of them try to tell her that what she is really promoting is a form of totalitarianism, but filled with scorn for the both of them, Mae refuses to listen.

Mae Holland is thinking impatiently of that new world order, convinced that it is going to be heavenly and that the world deserves to have its utopia now. As if that was not disturbing enough, the novel's final passage emphasizes just how far Mae has fallen down the rabbit hole of *The Circle's* invasive ideologies. As she sits by the bedside of her friend Annie Allerton who was driven into a coma by *The Circle's* incessant demands on her physical, mental, and emotional energies. By *The Circle's* novel, Mae has become an exemplar of *The Circle's* selfish, endlessly acquisitive, thinly disguised consumerist ideologies, and whether we like it or not, her new world order is on its way.

Mae as the main character of this novel has a character beautiful, ambitious, and consummately good at what she does. Mae is absurdly grateful for the opportunity to work in this brave new world. *The Circle* is set in the San Francisco Bay Area, in a fictional city called San Vincenzo, which is likely standing in for tech towns around San Francisco and San Jose. Most good stories start with a fundamental list of ingredients: the initial situation, conflict, complication, climax, suspense, denouement, and conclusion. *The Circle's* exposition gets underway as Mae Holland finds herself with a brand-spanking-new job at *The Circle* – the world's hottest tech company, as Mae adjust to life at *The Circle*, we readers learn all about her family life, her hopes and dreams, and the brief but impressive history of *The Circle* itself. About the conflict Mae's adjustment to life at *The Circle* does not always go as smoothly and painlessly as she had like. The company expects her to devote most – if not all – of her free time to attend various events and activities on campus. To participate in the never-ending stream of posts, comments that keep its social media flowing. This novel has a third-person narrator, that narrator's perspective is so bound up with Mae Holland's that it is often difficult, if not possible, to tell the two apart.

There are some reasons for choosing this novel and interested in analyzing it. Firstly, this novel has a unique title that is *The Circle* (2013) which can make

the readers want to read it because they will be curious about what is in the novel. This novel is very interesting because it tells about social media and technology related to today's life. Secondly, the novel tells in detail about the main character from her previous life before working at *The Circle* to about her family, friends, and lovers. Thirdly, this novel tells about the struggle of a Mae Holland who wants to help her father who is struggling with illness by risking his privacy and even her family. Relating to all of the reasons above, the researcher uses a sociological perspective in this research. The writer analyzes the novel by using a sociological perspective entitled **PROTEST AGAINST THE LOSS OF PRIVACY IN DAVE EGGERS' THE CIRCLE NOVEL (2013): SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

The problem statement such as:

1. What is the effect of loss of privacy in the daily lives of *TruYou* users in *The Circle's* novel (2013) ?
2. Why the author create the novel?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This research has objective of the study as follows:

1. To find out the effect of loss of privacy in the daily lives of *TruYou* users in *The Circle* Novel (2013)
2. To explain the author's reason create this novel

## **1.4 Benefit of the Study**

Through this analysis, the researcher hopes may be useful, helpful, and beneficial for the researcher, the teacher, the English students and other researcher. It can be describe as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of the study will be able to give information and new knowledge in literary study on *The Circle* novel (2013).

## 2. Practical Benefits

This novel is also can recommended as a literature book for student.

### **1.5 Paper Organization**

The paper organization of this research to explain in order to the reader can understand the content of this research. The organization, as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, and also paper organization. Chapter II is literature review, which describes about the notion of sociology of literature, basic principles of sociology of literature, previous study, and novelty. Chapter III is research method, which discuss about type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data source, method of collecting data and techniques of analyzing data. Chapter IV is finding and discussion, which includes of types the effect of loss of privacy and also the author's reason created the novel. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.